Yet, Tso does not disclose performing a category search, as recited by claims 1 and 21. Instead, Tso discloses how to present the search results by using categories that are established after the search has been completed with no apparent regard for category.

As an apparent consequence of Tso's focus on the handling of search results, rather than on the performance of a search, Tso does not disclose receiving at least one search term, as recited in claims 1 and 21. The Office Action references step 104 of Fig. 1 in an attempt to establish that Tso discloses receiving at least one search term. However, step 104 of Fig. 1 discloses "receiv[ing] search results" (emphasis added), not a search term, as recited in claims 1 and 21.

Also as an apparent consequence of Tso's focus on the handling of search results, rather than on performance of a search, Tso fails to disclose comparing a search term with a hierarchy of category identifiers to determine whether matches exist, as recited in claims 1 and 21. As indicated previously, Tso does not disclose details regarding performance of a search, and thus, fails to disclose comparing any search terms with a hierarchy of category identifiers. Instead, after a search result has been generated, Tso discloses using common attributes from the previously-obtained search results to determine and generate categories in which to place the search results. Tso, col. 2, lines, 53-67 and col. 3, lines 52-56.

Yet again, without disclosing details relating to performance of the search, Tso fails to disclose the claimed comparing the search term with terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist. The Office Action references step 106 of Fig. 1 and the corresponding text of Tso in an attempt to establish that Tso discloses comparing the search term with terms related to one or more categories. Step 106 of Fig. 1 states "dynamically establish one or more search result categories based upon attributes of the matching data items." As such, it is based on the results of a search previously completed that Tso establishes categories. Tso does not disclose the use of categories as a means of comparison to attain search results.

For least these reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of claims 1 and 21, and claims 2-8, 10, 22, and 23 dependent therefrom.

Claims 14 and 25 recite a method (claim 14) and computer program (claim 25) for performing a search to identify items and categories of items that relate to a search term that includes receiving at least one search term, comparing the search term with a list of recommended items to determine whether matches exist, comparing the search term with

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previously performed searches to determine whether matches exist, comparing the search term with a hierarchy of category identifiers and terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist, and displaying results based on matches that are determined to exist. As such, claims 14 and 25 recite several features recited by claims 1 and 21, which were discussed above in distinguishing Tso. For instance, claims 14 and 25 recite receiving at least one search term and comparing the search term with a hierarchy of category identifiers and terms related to one or more categories to determine whether matches exist. Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of claims 14 and 25, and claims 26 and 27 dependent therefrom.

Claims 9, 11-13, 15-20, 24, and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tso in view of Chakrabarti et al. (6,356,899). Claims 9, 11-13, 15-20, 24, and 28-32 depend from independent claims 1, 14, 21, and 25. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 14, 21, and 25, Tso fails to describe or suggest the features of claims 1, 14, 21, and 25. Chakrabarti fails to remedy the Tso shortcomings. Thus, the combination of Tso and Chakrabarti fails to describe or suggest the claims 1, 14, 21, and 25 features, or the features of claims 9, 11-13, 15-20, 24, and 28-32 dependent therefrom. Moreover, in view of the respective dependence upon claims 1, 14, 21, and 25, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 9, 11-13, 15-20, 24, and 28-32.

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 01/23/2003
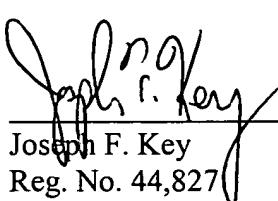
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**' IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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|---|---|
| Applicant : Surendra Goel et al. | Art Unit : 2171 |
| Serial No. : 09/749,639 | Examiner : Cindy Nguyen |
| Filed : December 28, 2000 | |
| Title : CATEGORY SEARCHING | |

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## TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Correspondence relating to this application is enclosed.  The required fees are computed below.  Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Claims | 32 | - | 32 | = | 0 | | $0 |
| Independent | 4 | - | 4 | = | 0 | | $0 |
| First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims | | | | | | | $0 |
| $180 for Information Disclosure Statement in payment of the late submission fee of §1.17(p). | | | | | | | $180.00 |
| Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for a 0 month extension of time. | | | | | | | $0 |
| TOTAL FEE DUE | | | | | | | $180.00 |
| A check for $180.00 is attached. | | | | | | | |

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 01/23/2003

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